Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 YAOUND 03749 101801Z

65
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7075
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C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3749

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, XA, CM
SUBJ: KOREA IN THE 30TH UNGA: THE AF PERFORMANCE

REFS: A) STATE 263798 (USUN 5652)
B) YAOUNDE 3728
C) STATE 259571
D) USUN 5608

1. SUMMARY. GOING BEYOND FORMAL OFFICIAL DEMARCHE ON KOREAN ISSUE, EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONVEYING MESSAGE TO GURC OFFICIALS ON PERSONAL BASIS AND ON SUB-AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL THAT CAMEROON'S VOTING PATTERN ON KOREAN AND OTHER ISSUES BEFORE INTERNATIONAL FORMA COULD BEGIN TO HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS AS FAR AS USG SHOULD GO AT THIS TIME. WE SHOULD STOP SHORT OF ANYTHING THAT GURC LIKELY TO INTERPRET AS OUTRIGHT THREAT OR BLACKMAIL, WHICH WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO US INTERESTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION VIGOROUS FORMAL DEMARCHE REPORTED REF B WHICH IN LINE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REF C, EMBASSY HAS IN PAST WEEK TAKEN INITIATIVE ON UNOFFICIAL LEVEL CONVEY MESSAGE THAT SUDDEN DETERIORATION OF GURC POSITION ON KOREA AS INDICATED BY PERFORMANCE IN FIRST COMMITTEE MAY PORTEND BADLY FOR FUTURE OF US-CAMEROON
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PAGE 02 YAOUND 03749 101801Z

RELATIONS.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

3. IN LENGTHY SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS AT SOCIAL OCCASIONS WITH FONMIN'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND WITH AMERICAN DESK OFFICER, DCM HAS SPOKEN BLUNTLY "ON PERSONAL BASIS" OF SIGNIFICANCE WHICH HE -- IN THIRD YEAR IN CAMEROON -- SEES IN THIS HOSTILE ACTION ON KOREA WHICH WAS ONLY REMAINING INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUE ON WHICH GURC UNTIL NOW HAD MAINTAINED MEASURE OF OBJECTIVITY AND NEUTRALITY. EMPHASIZED THAT CAMDEL'S EXPLANATION OF VOTE (REF D) WAS FLAGRANT AND POORLY REASONED COVER-UP FOR WHAT WAS OBVIOUSLY POLITICAL DECISION TO LINE UP WITH COMMUNIST/EXTREMIST-LED SIDE ON KOREAN ISSUE IN DIRECTION THAT COULD ONLY PROMOTE DANGEROUS DISORDER RATHER THAN ALLEGED GOAL OF PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION CORRESPONDING TO ASPIRATIONS OF KOREAN PEOPLE. ONE COULD ONLY ASSUME THAT CAMEROON WAS RECEIVING ADEQUATE PAYOFF FROM OTHER SIDE. THIS WAS A REGRETTABLE KIND OF MOVE NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS WRONG, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE EVENTUAL US REACTION AS DICTATED BY INCREASINGLY CRITICAL PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL OPINION. NO MATTER HOW MUCH ANY PARTICULAR PROPONENTS OF AFRICA OR SPECIFIC AFRICAN COUNTRIES MIGHT ADVOCATE UNDERSTANDING AND CONTINUED SUPPORT, AMERICAN PUBLIC AS WELL AS MORE AND MORE KEY PEOPLE WITHIN GOVERNMENT WERE QUESTIONING EVER MORE STRONGLY WHETHER WE SHOULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON HELPING FRIENDS AND STOP CHANNELING OUR LIMITED AID RESOURCES TO COUNTRIES WHICH EITHER ATTACK US VICIOUSLY OR EVEN CONSISTENTLY VOTE AGAINST US ON ISSUE AFTER ISSUE CSGARDLESS OF INTRINSIC MERITS OF EACH CASE. CAMEROON, WITH THIS NEW STANCE ON KOREA, COUPLED WITH ITS UNFORTUNATE VOTE IN THIRD COMMITTEE ON RACISM/ZIONISM RESOLUTION, SEEMED NOW TO HAVE DEMONSTRATED IT HAD CROSSED THE LINE AND BUCKLED UNDER TO PRESSURES OF EXTREMIST THIRD WOULD MINORITY WHICH PROGRESSIVELY WAS REDUCING MAJORITY OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES INTO STATUS OF PUPPETS, A TERM EXTREMISTS SO DEFTLY APPLIED TO THOSE THEY COULD NOT THEMSELVES MANIPULATE. IT WAS IRONIC WHO THE PUPPETS REALLY WERE, AND REGRETABLE TO SEE CAMEROON, WHICH INDEED CONDUCTED RATIONAL, MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES AT HOME, DROPPING INTO SUCH AN ABYSS ON INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

4. BOTH FONMIN OFFICIALS, WHO IN GENERAL ARE FAVORABLY ORIENTED TO START WITH, RESPONDED WELL TO FOREGOING PITCH AND SEEMED CLEARLY TO ABSORB ITS MESSAGE. HOPEFULLY, THEY WILL PASS IT ON TO HIGHER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 YAOUND 03749 101801Z

LEVELS.

5. RECENTLY ARRIVED EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER HAS ALSO DISCUSSED KOREAN ISSUE ON PERSONAL BASIS WITH CONTACTS AT PRESIDENCY, INCLUDING KEY SECURITY OFFICIAL. HAS USED PITCH LESS HARSH AND MORE ORIENTED TO COMMUNIST/NON-COMMUNIST SPECTRUM, IN ORDER TO SUIT PARTICULAR AUDIENCE.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

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6. THE FOREGOING BEING SAID, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE SAME HARSH MESSAGE SHOULD BE DELIVERED "OFFICIALLY" OR AT HIGHER LEVEL AT THIS TIME, I.E., BY AMBASSADOR "ON INSTRUCTIONS" OR EVEN "AS PERSONAL THOUGHTS". ANYTHING PERCEIVED AS THREAT TO TAKE REPRI-SALS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, I.E., REDUCE OR CUT OFF AID, WOULD BE VIEWED AS UNACCEPTABLE IMPINGEMENT ON CAMEROON'S SOVEREIGNTY AND DIGNITY, HE COMPLETELY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, AND BLOCK POSSIB-ILITY OF IMPROVING USG-GURC UNDERSTANDING AND GURC'S ACTIONS. BUT IF OUT LOWER-LEVEL "PERSONAL" DISCUSSIONS GET THROUGH TO THE TOP ECHELONS, THEY COULD PROVIDE USEFUL AND ACCEPTABLE FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

7. EMBASSY APPRECIATED REF A AS COLORFUL AND SWEEPINGLY ELOQUENT ANALYSIS. WE ASSUME OTHER AF EMBASSIES MAY ALSO HAVE COMMENTS ON SPECIFIC FACTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO COUNTRIES WITH WHICH THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING RELATIONS. FOR ITS PART, YAOUNDE CERTAINLY SHARES WITH USUN BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT THAT CAMEROON ABANDONED ITS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED BALANCED POSI-TION ON KOREA. IN ADDITION, TO DIFFERENCES IN AILIVACH, WHERE WE ADVOCATING SOMETHING MORE NUANCED THAN USUN'S FLAT-OUT RECOMMENDATION THAT BILANRAL RELATIONS SHOULD BE AFFECTED (REF A), WE QUESTION EVALUATION THAT CAMEROON GAVE "POLEMICAL" EXPLANATION OF VOTE, A STATEMENT USUN HAS MADE IN REF A AND PREVIOUSLY. OUR OWN CAREFUL READING OF CAMDEL'S EXPLANATION OF VOTE INDICATES THAT ITS CONCLUSIONS ARE FAULTY AND DO NOT FOLLOW FROM THE PRE-MISES WHICH ARE GOOD, BUT WE FAIL TO SEE HOW IT CAN BE LABLED "HOLEMICAL". IT IS NOT ESPECIALLY DISPUTATIOUS OR AT ALL ODIOUS, BUT MERELY A BADLY REASONED EXPLANATION.

8. RE EQUATORIAL GUINEA, WITHOUT HAVING SEEN TEXT OF GOEG SPEECH ON KOREA, WE DO NOT DOUBT THAT IT WAS OFFENSIVE. HOWEVER, OUR RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY ARE LIMITED TO ACCREDITATION OF AMBASSADOR RESIDENT IN YAOUNDE WHO OCCASIONALLY, ALONG WITH OUR CONFIDENTIAL

CONSUL IN DOUALA, VISITS EG TO TAKE TEMPERATURE AND MONITOR EVENTS, INCLUDING COMMUNIST PRESENCE AND ACTIVITIES THERE. WE HAVE AND CONTEMPLATE NO ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF ANY KIND. OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE THUS ALREADY SO MINIMAL AS TO BE IMMUNE FROM ANY DELETERIOUS EFFECT, UNLESS WE WISHED TO TAKE STEP OF BREAKING RELATIONS COMPLETELY. WE WOULD CONSIDER LATTER MOVE TO BE EX-AGGERATED AND PURPOSELESS RESPONSE.
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EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

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